

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Mr. R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the
U.S. Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Director Mulvaney and Assistant Secretary James:

We are writing to you regarding the FY2019 budget request and urge you to include sufficient funding for the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study (GLCRS). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposed this study which would be the first of its kind to coordinate a strategy across the Great Lakes states to efficiently and effectively manage and protect the Great Lakes coastline.

We must work together to ensure that the entirety of the Great Lakes coastline is protected. These lakes serve as an economic driver to coastal communities and home to the nearly 4 million Americans who live within two miles of the coastline. The coastline provides incredible economic value to our nation. Along the shores sit 60 commercial harbors that move over 123 million tons of cargo each year and boasts a \$14 billion recreation and tourism economy.

As we look to the vulnerabilities of the Great Lakes, high water levels, recent storms, and severe weather occurrences have had devastating impacts on shoreline erosion and coastal communities. This year, Lake Ontario experienced the worst flooding and coastal damage-seen in decades. This devastation caused massive economic and personal losses to communities along its coast.

It is our understanding that this study is a top priority for Buffalo, Chicago, and Detroit Army Corps' Districts as well as the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. It also has the support of seven Great Lakes states, the Great Lakes Commission, and several federal agencies with missions in coastal management, including NOAA and U.S. Geological Survey. While all of these partners prioritize the need for the GLCRS, it continues to go unfunded.

The GLCRS has buy in from many organizations and much of the information needed for completion already exists. We would like to express our full support of the efforts that the Corps' and all other partners have taken in moving this study forward. Coastal communities cannot afford to go through another year of storms without being properly equipped with information on how they can better protect their shorelines and their communities.

In closing, we reiterate our support for the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study, and ask that this study be included in the President's FY2019 budget request. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

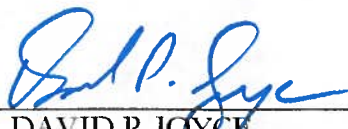
Sincerely,



CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



DAVID P. JOYCE
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



JIM RENACCI
Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
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BRIAN HIGGINS
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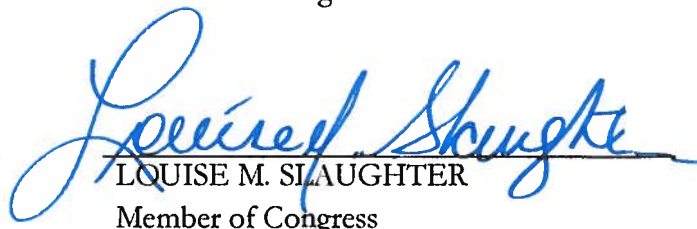
FRED UPTON
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SANDER M. LEVIN
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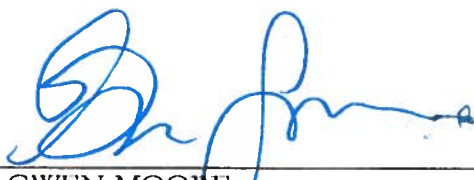
MIKE KELLY
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BILL HUIZENGA
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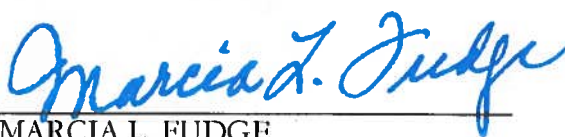
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